



# TOLLAND

## Hampden County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Tolland is a rural hill town in the eastern Berkshire highlands, located on the Farmington River. Only limited agriculture is possible because of the rugged, wooded terrain and marshlands and it is conjectured that until the first documented permanent settlement in 1750, the town was mainly used for small, seasonal hunting or fishing camps. Tolland suffered no damage or loss of life during the French and Indian wars of the late 18th century and was the last portion of the original Bedford Plantation to be settled. However, the Bedford proprietors sold large tracts of land at low prices to stimulate settlement of the area, so each colonist had generous amounts of land. They used the land for farming, livestock and dairy production, finding that the hillsides produced excellent pasturage for cattle. Through the 18th and 19th century, the town's development continued at a very slow pace, since the terrain, limited agricultural acreage and lack of extensive freshwater sources did not attract settlers who found other lands still available. Some industrial development took place in Tolland, including establishment of a clock making factory in the 1840's and of a tannery on the Farmington River about 1850. The clock factory, which employed 20 men, was the largest one in the state at the time and produced 72% of the value of all clocks manufactured in the Commonwealth in 1845. In 1872, construction began on the Lee and New Haven Railroad which was expected to bring prosperity and further development to Tolland. But when the financial panic of 1873 struck, the state withdrew its support and left Tolland and its neighboring communities with a massive debt. Town taxes rose to an exorbitant level to repay the debt and there were widespread farm failures. In present day Tolland, the economy is based on cattle raising and dairying with some additional maple syrup production and apple harvests. The population, which had fallen to a low of 101 in 1915, has crept upward to 289.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the

Massachusetts Historical Commission



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Otis and Blandford on the north; Granville on the east; Hartland and Colebrook, Connecticut on the south; and Sandisfield on the west. Tolland is 27 miles west of Springfield and 115 miles southwest of Boston.

**Total Area:** 32.78 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 31.64 sq. miles

**Population:** 289

**Density:** 9 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Tolland Center, West Granville, Otis, Blandford

## Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 258-4794

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1810

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	206		
Democrats	52	25.2	%
Republicans	53	25.7	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	101	49.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Tolland town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	426	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	426	100.0
Male.....	227	53.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	5	1.2
Female.....	199	46.7	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	27	6.3	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	31	7.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	33	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	5	1.2
15 to 19 years.....	18	4.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	421	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	7	1.6	White alone.....	413	96.9
25 to 34 years.....	47	11.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	85	20.0	Total population.....	426	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	61	14.3	In households.....	426	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	36	8.5	Householder.....	169	39.7
60 to 64 years.....	26	6.1	Spouse.....	112	26.3
65 to 74 years.....	41	9.6	Child.....	112	26.3
75 to 84 years.....	10	2.3	Own child under 18 years.....	91	21.4
85 years and over.....	4	0.9	Other relatives.....	13	3.1
Median age (years).....	41.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	9	2.1
18 years and over.....	324	76.1	Nonrelatives.....	20	4.7
Male.....	176	41.3	Unmarried partner.....	7	1.6
Female.....	148	34.7	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	317	74.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	70	16.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	55	12.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	32	7.5	Total households.....	169	100.0
Female.....	23	5.4	Family households (families).....	115	68.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	45	26.6
One race.....	425	99.8	Married-couple family.....	112	66.3
White.....	415	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	43	25.4
Black or African American.....	4	0.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	2	1.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	1.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1	0.6
Asian.....	1	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	54	32.0
Asian Indian.....	1	0.2	Householder living alone.....	48	28.4
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	22	13.0
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	51	30.2
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	45	26.6
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.52	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.06	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	478	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	169	35.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	309	64.6
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	295	61.7
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	1	0.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	169	100.0
White.....	416	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	146	86.4
Black or African American.....	5	1.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	23	13.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	1.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.48	(X)
Asian.....	1	0.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.78	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Tolland is located between the Berkshires and the Pioneer Valley. The town has good access to the airport and rail facilities of the latter region, due to its location along U.S. Route 20.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 8 going N-S and State Route 57 running E-W.

### Rail

There is no freight rail service in Tolland, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts and Connecticut is easily accessible.

### Bus

Tolland is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

### Other

Barnes Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 5,000'x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



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# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.